



TOM CILMI
Suffolk County Legislator
10th District

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County to Advertise Narcan Training

Suffolk County's Health Department will be developing a webpage designed to promote and advertise Narcan training classes throughout the County. Training classes are offered by a number of agencies and organizations throughout the County including the County's Department of Health.

Narcan, otherwise known as Naloxone, is an opioid antagonist which has been effectively used by first responders throughout Suffolk County to counteract the effects of heroin overdose.

A bill sponsored by Legislator Tom Cilmi, Chair of the Republican Caucus Task Force on Mental Health and Substance Abuse, directing the Health Department to develop the page was unanimously passed by the Suffolk County Legislature at its June 17th meeting.

Cilmi said the bill was in response to concerns shared at a recent task force hearing that information about Narcan training classes was hard to find. He said, "The use of Narcan has saved hundreds of lives here in Suffolk County. Because of its success and the fact that it can be safely administered as a nasal inhalant without direct adverse effects, training programs exist for the general public."

Cilmi said that finding information about when and where classes are being offered can be difficult at best. "I wanted to create a central location on the web where folks who are interested in getting trained could go. This is a safe, life-saving drug. The more folks are equipped to use it, the better chance we have of saving someone's son or daughter, mother or father, from a tragic death."

Once deployed, the web page will be accessed through the Department of Health Website: www.suffolkcountyny.gov/departments/healthservices. Additionally, Cilmi hopes to create a simple link which can be shared on each legislator's home page, as well as on Facebook.